

private practice he is so seldom sought, would be fatal to the work, and should be regarded as criminal. The man chosen should be the fittest physician obtainable, without regard to County or State boundaries.

THE MEDICAL INSPECTOR—HOW OBTAINABLE.

The county commissioners now pay a county superintendent of health to care, as a rule, for those who—often perhaps through medical neglect—have become paupers or criminals, and to fight disease usually after it has become epidemic. It is the exception to find applied the principle of "a stitch in time saves nine." The toll paid directly and indirectly as a result of such a system is appalling. The jails are filled; the county homes are crowded; the dependents are numerous; schools are poorly attended; many children are backward and require two years to complete what should be accomplished in one; frequently on account of epidemics schools are actually closed for weeks and months, quarantines are established, business suffers, and there is general stagnation.

The county can not afford to longer tolerate this poor business policy. It must invest in the best talent obtainable, regardless of price, to protect it from such conditions. The "stitch in time" principle must be applied.

To take the entire amount needed from either the general county fund or from the school fund in a small county might cause some slight inconvenience, but if both funds will support the inspector who is mutually the choice of the Board of Health and the Board of Education, the expense will not be heavy on the Commissioners nor on the Board of Education. As a matter of fact, it should make little difference which tax money is used to provide for medical inspection, as it affords protection to all the people and may well be regarded as either regular health or regular school work.

The counties of Guilford and Robeson have employed capable superintendents of health for their whole time. A number of other counties have begun some medical inspection work and are increasing the compensation of their superintendents accordingly.



FIG. 1. State and county dispensaries for the free examination and treatment for hookworm disease have been phenomenal successes. The photograph above shows one of the dispensaries in Robeson county. Two hundred people were treated on the day the picture was made. Thirty-five counties in the State have provided small appropriations for the local expenses of this work. Up to date 63,000 people have been treated for the disease in the State. Ten Southern States are engaged in similar campaigns.